

Butte County Children and Families Commission Celebrates Week Of The Young Child: Children's Opportunities – Our Responsibilities

Butte County Children and Families Commission, committed to improving the lives of children ages 0 to 5 and their families year round, will join hundreds of organizations throughout the country to celebrate the Week of the Young Child, April 18 through 24. This week honors the more than 35 million young children in America and the families, teachers and other adults who help children make the most of opportunities in the early years.

“Positive, healthy experiences during the first five years – when a child’s brain develops most dramatically – are critical. That’s why Butte County Children and Families Commission works to equip parents and caregivers with the tools they need to ensure children reach their greatest potential in school and in life,” said Dr. Mark Lundberg, chair/commissioner of Butte County Children and Families Commission. “This week is a chance to celebrate these efforts and recognize that every adult in a child’s life plays a crucial role in shaping that child’s future.”

Local celebrations of the Week of the Young Child help build broader support for early childhood programs that nurture young children’s growth and ability to learn. Butte County Children & Families Commission will participate in the Children’s Faire to be held on Saturday April 24th from 10:00 to 2:00 at the downtown Chico City Park Plaza. Participants will provide age appropriate activities for children, birth to eight years old and their families.

“Children’s opportunities are our responsibilities,” said Linda Moore, commissioner of Butte County Children and Families Commission. “What we do as a community to make children’s programs and resources readily available to parents and caregivers is an investment in our children’s future success.”

Butte County Children and Families Commission programs, which include school readiness efforts, home visits for new parents, improvements in the quality of child care and other family support programs, work together to ensure that local children are healthy, happy and learning.

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Research shows that a child's brain develops most dramatically in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child's growth will have a significant impact throughout life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to support programs for expectant parents and children ages 0 to 5. Butte County Children and Families Commission distributes approximately \$1.5 million dollars a year in Prop. 10 revenues to programs and services that meet the local needs of expectant parents and children ages 0 to 5 and their families. For more information about local events during the Week of the Young Child or Butte County Children and Families Commission programs, call 538-7964

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